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**David Mellinger** FCC - MAILROOM

3798 NW Jameson Dr. , Corvallis, Oregon 97330-1724

February 15, 2006 11:25 AM

Senator Gordon Smith  
U.S. Senate  
404 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-0001

Subject: Universal Service Fund (CC Docket 96-45)

Dear Senator Smith:

I am writing to oppose the FCC's plan to change how taxes are collected for the Universal Service Fund. The FCC chairman is proposing a flat fee applied to all (or nearly all) telephones, as opposed to a variable fee that is based on the amount of telephone usage. This change will shift this tax onto millions of lower-income people, including students, the elderly, rural consumers, etc. -- anyone who uses their phone less than typical businesses use theirs. It amounts to a tax increase of as much as \$700 million for tens of millions of low-volume, long-distance users in the U.S. It is wrong, and I urge you to oppose it.

Sincerely,

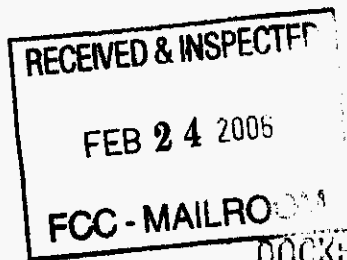
David Mellinger



cc: FCC General Email Box

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LeRoy Sundin  
701 7th Ave, C2, B101  
Erie, Illinois 61250



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL February 15, 2006

Federal Communications Commission  
Chairman Kevin J Martin  
445 12th St SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Subject: Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service CC Docket 96-45

Dear Chairman Martin:

As someone who is concerned about increased taxes and telephone fees, I oppose Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Kevin J. Martin's plans to change the way monies are collected for the Universal Service Fund.

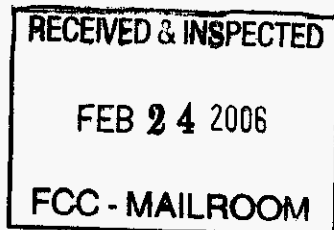
Chairman Martin is proposing a change in the Universal Service Fund (USF) collection methodology from a "pay-for-what-you-use" system to a "monthly flat-fee." The flat-fee system would result in forced phone bill hikes for me -- and for millions of low-volume, long-distance users in the U.S. Shifting the funding burden of the USF away from high volume users -- like big businesses -- and placing the weight on low-volume users -- students, prepaid wireless users, senior citizens and low-income residential and rural consumers-- is unfair. I urge Chairman Martin to rethink his flat-fee plan. It is a de-facto tax increase of as much as \$707 million for 43 million of low-volume, long-distance users in the U.S.

Please pass along my concerns to the FCC on my behalf, letting them know that your constituents have contacted you to oppose a USF numbers or flat-fee plan. Thank you for your continued work. I look forward to hearing about your position on this matter.

Sincerely,

LeRoy Sundin

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**Sheryl Caruthers**

3258 Brick Church Pike Apt. A-3, Nashville, Tennessee 37207

February 15, 2006 09:51 AM

Senator Lamar Alexander  
U.S. Senate  
302 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-0001

Subject: Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service CC Docket 96-45

Dear Senator Alexander:

As someone who is concerned about increased taxes and telephone fees, I oppose Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Kevin J. Martin's plans to change the way monies are collected for the Universal Service Fund.

Chairman Martin is proposing a change in the Universal Service Fund (USF) collection methodology from a "pay-for-what-you-use" system to a "monthly flat-fee." The flat-fee system would result in forced phone bill hikes for me -- and for millions of low-volume, long-distance users in the U.S. Shifting the funding burden of the USF away from high volume users -- like big businesses -- and placing the weight on low-volume users -- students, prepaid wireless users, senior citizens and low-income residential and rural consumers-- is unfair. I urge Chairman Martin to rethink his flat-fee plan. It is a de-facto tax increase of as much as \$707 million for 43 million of low-volume, long-distance users in the U.S.

Please pass along my concerns to the FCC on my behalf, letting them know that your constituents have contacted you to oppose a USF numbers or flat-fee plan. Thank you for your continued work. I look forward to hearing about your position on this matter.

Sincerely,



Sheryl Caruthers

cc:

FCC General Email Box

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**Thomas Sloan**

8854 Olive Ranch Lane , Fair Oaks, California 95628-5473

February 05, 2006 04:20 PM

The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Subject: Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service CC Docket 96-45

Dear The Federal Communications Commission:


The flat-fee Universal Service Fund proposal is unfair. I urge you to oppose this plan. I am one of the millions of consumers that will be unfairly taxed at a higher rate under the flat fee plan. The flat-fee would mean a tax hike for people like me -- consumers that use prepaid cellular phones or make few long distance calls.

I support the Keep USF Fair Coalition, and monitor this issue on their website. Stopping the flat fee tax is important to my family - not to mention my pocket book. You will hear from me again, until this issue is resolved fairly! The flat-fee is unfair, and un-American.

Under the flat fee proposal you are considering, people who make few long distance calls would pay the same as people or businesses that make many calls. In other words, low-volume and primarily residential customers would bear the same universal service fund burden as high-volume residential or business customers. I urge you to reject this flat-fee proposal.  
Thank you.

cc: FCC Chair Kevin Martin, Congress

Sincerely,

  
Thomas Sloan

cc:

Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Senator Barbara Boxer  
Representative Dan Lungren

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